

**WA Puget Sound Region Salmon Drift Gillnet Fishery (includes all inland waters south of  
U.S.-Canada border and eastward of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line —  
(Treaty Indian fishing is excluded)**

**Fishing gear type:** Gillnet

**Current category:** Category II\*

**Basis for current classification on LOF:** The total annual mortality and serious injury of harbor porpoise (inland WA stock) in this fishery is greater than 1% and less than 50% of the stock's Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level.

**Current list of marine mammal species/stocks injured/killed (a<sup>(1)</sup> indicates those stocks driving the fishery's classification):** Dall's porpoise, CA/OR/WA; Harbor porpoise, inland WA<sup>(1)</sup>; Harbor seal, inland WA.

**Estimated number of current participants:** 210

**Take Reduction Teams/Plans that affect this fishery:** None.

**Year added to the LOF:** 1996

**Category when originally listed:** Category II

**Basis for original classification on the LOF:** Based on observer and logbook data. Logbooks indicated that takes of harbor seals in inland WA waters occurred each year. The fishery was observed in 1993 and 1994. Observer reports from that time documented incidental takes of harbor seals, harbor porpoise, and Dall's porpoise. The total mortality and serious injury for harbor porpoise (based on observer data) was 15 animals/year, or 6% of PBR (PBR=270). The estimate included Treaty Indian fishing effort, which constituted about half of the estimated effort in Puget Sound. Since Treaty Indian fisheries are not covered by the LOF, only half of the documented takes were used to classify the fishery (7.5 animals/year, or 3% of PBR).

**Estimated number of participants when originally listed:** 1,044

**Past names, if any:** None.

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**Gear description/method for fishing:** This fishery uses drift gillnet gear consisting of single web construction, not exceeding 300 fathoms (1,800 ft; 549 m) in length, attached at one end of the vessel. The minimum mesh size varies from 5-7 in (13-18 cm) depending on the target species. While the depths fished vary, fishermen strive to keep the net off of the bottom. The drift times vary depending on the fishing area, tidal condition, and target catch.

**Target species:** Salmon (coho, pink, sockeye, chinook, and chum).

**Spatial/temporal distribution of effort:** The fishery operates in inland marine waters (state waters) south of the U.S.-Canada border and east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line at the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

**Levels of observer coverage each year<sup>†</sup>:** Observers were placed onboard vessels in a pilot program to monitor sea turtle and marine mammal interactions in 1993. In 1994, observer effort concentrated in the sockeye salmon fishery. Incidental takes of harbor porpoise, Dall's porpoise, and harbor seals were documented. This fishery has not been observed since 1994. The overall take of marine mammals in this fishery is unlikely to have increased since the

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\* The fishery is classified based on mortalities and serious injuries of a marine mammal stock greater than 1% and less than 50% (Category II) of the stock's Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level.

<sup>†</sup> Observer coverage levels include the latest information reported in the most current final Stock Assessment Reports (SAR).

fishery was last observed, owing to reduction in the number of participating vessels and available fishing time since 1994.

**Management and regulations:** This fishery is managed by the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife as a limited entry fishery with seasonal openings, area closures, and gear restrictions. Regulations governing incidental take of marine mammals do not apply to tribal members exercising treaty rights within this fishery.

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#### **History of Changes on the LOF**

##### 2006 LOF:

- Added a superscript “1” after harbor porpoise (inland WA), indicating that takes of this stock are driving the classification of the fishery.

2004 LOF: Estimated number of participants was updated from 225 to 210.

2003 LOF: Estimated number of participants was updated from 725 to 225.

1999 LOF: Estimated number of participants was updated from 900 to 725.

1998 LOF: Estimated number of participants was updated from 1,044 to 900.